

**Amendments to the Specification:**

The Specification was objected to as allegedly missing proper language and format. Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

~~The invention relates to a~~ A system for providing a mechanical and electrical connection between the ends of two essentially-coaxial shafts (1 and 2), whereby each shaft end comprises a groove (11, 12) close to an axial end extension (17 and 8; 18 and 9). Moreover, the aforementioned ends are connected inside a sleeve (10) ~~comprising~~ including the following: a first annular shoulder (13) having a shape that is complementary to that of the groove of the first shaft, such that there is no clearance therebetween; a second annular shoulder (14) having a shape that is complementary to that of the groove (12) of the second shaft, but with a clearance therebetween; and a cavity (16) which is intended to receive the shaft ends, said cavity having an axial height which is greater than the sum of the axial heights of the axial end extensions (17 and 8; 18 and 9). ~~The invention is characterized in that~~ Further, the axial end extensions (17 and 8; 18 and 9) of the two shafts are in permanent mechanical and electrical contact via an elastic conducting means (7).

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Patent ~~AP-B-0 716 165~~ EP-B-0 716 165 describes a crustbreaking device surrounding and protecting a measurement device that not only measures the bath level but also its temperature. For this device, it is also important to detect the moment at which the plunger comes into contact with the molten electrolyte, and the crustbreaker is also provided with a detection device based on measurement of an electrical voltage between the plunger and a point on the cell used as a reference potential.